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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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TETANUS IN COURT-PLASTER.

A report just received from the Director of the Hygienic Laboratory of the Public Health Service states that out of 13 specimens of court-plaster examined, 2 were found to be contaminated with tetanus bacilli. The specimens were secured from drug stores and were in original packages just as the product goes to the consumer. There is no ground for believing that the contamination was an intentional one. Whether contamination occurred during the process of manufacture through the use of infected ingredients, or subsequently by careless handling remains to be determined by further investigation.

It was also found that court-plaster is not "clean" in the surgical sense.

The report of the laboratory findings in the examination of the specimens of court-plaster appears elsewhere in this issue.

RODENT DESTRUCTION ON SHIPS.

A REPORT ON THE RELATIVE EFFICIENCY OF FUMIGANTS AS DETERMINED BY SUBSEQUENT INTENSIVE TRAPPING OVER A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

By R. H. CREEL, Assistant Surgeon General, and FRENCH SIMPSON, Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

Much has been written of the effectiveness of various agents used in the fumigation of ships for the purpose of destroying rats, but thus far practically all definite data have been obtained from experimental studies performed under artificial conditions.

For many years arbitrary standards for the strength of sulphur dioxide as a fumigant have been provided in the United States quarantine regulations and the length of exposure has been likewise indicated. Although based on experimental investigation, the effectiveness of these standards has been supported to some extent by the general observations of quarantine officials. It has frequently been noted that a very large number of rats have been killed on ships as a

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